Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device for fixing bone pieces together, the bone fixing device comprising:

a pair of spaced-apart fixing portions, each having at least one hole dimensioned such that a bone fastener can extend therethrough so as to couple the respective fixing portion to a respective bone piece in use; and,

a pair of substantially rigid connecting members extending between and substantially rigidly connecting the fixing portions, the connecting members being locatable across one or more fissures between the bone pieces and deformable while still substantially maintaining rigidity subsequent to deformation of the connecting members such that the deformation draws the fixing portions towards each other so that

the one or more fissures are closed with the bone pieces held in compression.

2. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the fixing portions comprises an annulus.

3. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device according to claim 1, wherein the connecting members are deformable symmetrically with respect to a line extending through the center of the pair of fixing portions such that the fixing portions are drawn toward one another along the line.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device according to claim 1, wherein the connecting members are parallel to each other prior to being deformed.

7. (Original) A bone fixing device according to claim 1, wherein each connecting member has at

least one point of weakness at which bending of the connecting member occurs in preference to elsewhere on the connecting member.

8. (Original) A bone fixing device according to claim 7, wherein each of the at least one point of weakness is a necked portion of the respective connecting member.

9. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the fixing portions comprises at least two holes each for receiving a bone fastener.

10. (Currently Amended) A modular system for fixing bone pieces together, the modular system comprising at least two bone fixing devices, each bone fixing device comprising:

a pair of spaced-apart fixing portions each having at least one hole dimensioned such that a bone fastener can extend therethrough so as to couple the respective fixing portion to a respective bone ~~piexe~~ piece in use; and,

a pair of substantially rigid connecting members extending between and substantially rigidly connecting the fixing portions, the connecting members being deformable while still substantially maintaining rigidity subsequent to deformation of the connecting members such that deformation draws the fixing portions towards each other,

wherein at least one of the fixing portions of one of the bone fixing devices is configured to be concentrically overlapped with a fixing portion of another one of the bone fixing devices in a pivotable arrangement about a bone fastener extending concentrically through the holes of the overlapped fixing portions.

11. (Previously Presented) A modular system according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the fixing portions is in the form of an annulus.

12. (Previously Presented) A modular system according to claim 11, further comprising at least one washer for concentrically overlapping with an annulus of a bone fixing device.

13. (Previously Presented) A modular system according to claim 12, wherein the hole within

the at least one washer comprises a frusto-conical portion to receive the head of a bone screw.

14. (Previously Presented) A modular system according to claim 13, wherein the hole within the at least one washer comprises a cylindrical portion to receive the shaft of a bone screw.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of fixing bone pieces separated by a fissure, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing at least one bone fixing device having a pair of spaced-apart fixing portions each having at least one hole dimensioned such that a fastener can extend therethrough and a pair of deformable connecting members extending between and substantially rigidly connecting the fixing portions;

(b) fixing one of the fixing portions to one bone piece using a bone fastener and the other fixing portion to another bone piece using another bone fastener such that the connecting members extend across the fissure; and,

(c) deforming the connecting members such that the fixing portions are drawn together so as to close the fissure and hold the bone pieces in compression.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the fixing portions each comprise an annulus, and step (a) involves concentrically overlapping an annulus of a first bone fixing device with an annulus of a second bone fixing device such that a bone fastening means can extend through both of the overlapped annuli.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein deforming the connecting members in step (c) further comprises substantially simultaneously and symmetrically deforming the connecting members.

18. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the pairs of fixing portions has only a single hole.

19. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of

the fixing portions of one of the bone fixing devices is configured to be concentrically overlapped with a fixing portion of another bone fixing device in a pivotable arrangement about a bone fastener extending concentrically through the holes of the overlapped fixing portions.

20. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device according to claim 2, wherein the connecting members are spaced apart from each other by substantially a diameter of the annulus.

21. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device according to claim 2, wherein the connecting members directly project from the fixing portions and there are no other projections from the fixing portions.

22. (Previously Presented) A bone fixing device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the pairs of fixing portions is arranged to provide only a shingle coupling to the respective bone piece.